

A new species of *Diloponis* POPE, a predator of diaspidid scales in the south of Iran*

(Coleoptera, Coccinellidae)

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Abstract

Diloponis fuerschi sp. n., a predaceous coccinellid on diaspidid scales of date palm, almond, ash and willow is described from Fassa, South Iran. The male and female genitalia are illustrated. The genus and species are new to the Palearctic region.

Introduction

The south African genus *Diloponis* POPE of the tribe Microweiseini comprises only a single small species, *D. inconspicuus*, collected on citrus with red scale (POPE 1962). The genus is characterized by the apical segment of the maxillary palpi without the securiform appearance, characteristic of the family in general, but is semi-fusiform, very obliquely truncate. Antennae 7-segmented, with a single segmented club; prosternum forming a small chin-piece. FÜRSCHE (1985) redescribed the type and illustrated the male genitalia and some other morphological characteristics. *D. inconspicuus* is collected from the Cape province of South Africa.

Diloponis fuerschi sp. n.

(Fig. 1 a-m)

Holotype: ♂ IRAN: Fassa Zahedan village; Host, *Parlatoria blanchardi* TARG. on date palm; 30.III.1990 (Yazdani) (Plant Protection Department, Agricultural College, Shiraz University).

Paratype: IRAN: 1 ♀ same data as Holotype; 2 ♂ Estahban; Host, scale insects on almond; 6.III.1990 (Yazdani); 2 ♂, ♀ Firouzabad, Host, scale insect on willow; 15.III.1990 (Yazdani); 10 ♂, ♀, Dasht-e-Arzhan, Host, scale insects on ash; 6.V.1990 (Yazdani) (Plant Protection Department, Agricultural College, Shiraz University); 1 Paratype same data (Zoolog. Staatssammlung München).

Length 1.03 to 1.20 mm, width 0.75 to 0.90 mm, form oval and convex (Fig. 1m). Colour brown to dark brown, except the tibiae, tarsi, mouthparts, and antennae which are of cream to yellow colour. Dorsal surface with longitudinal pubescence. Head with coarse punctures faintly shagreened; frons elongated to the anterior area, and with a groove near the front of the eyes; clypeus truncate; at the anterior margin compound eyes with coarse facets, and inside of border of them straight; antenna 7-segmented the apical segment clubbed, elliptical-shape (Fig. 1b). Labrum with semicircle-shape at anterior margin; maxillary palpus as long as antenna, apical segment fusiform (Fig. 1c). Pronotum with anterior border finely raised; lateral borders arcuate; pronotal punctures coarse; intervals between punctures not quite smooth, bearing traces of reticulation. Scutellum visible with few punctures. Elytra together not much longer than broad, strongly convex, punctures of disc similar in size and bearing similar setae. Prosternum with a few punctures; anterior margin with a small raised anterior border, border briefly and shallow margin medially. Mesosternum with coarse scattered punctures, trapezoid shape. Punctures of metasternum similar to mesosternum. Abdominal sternum with a few punctures; first visible abdominal

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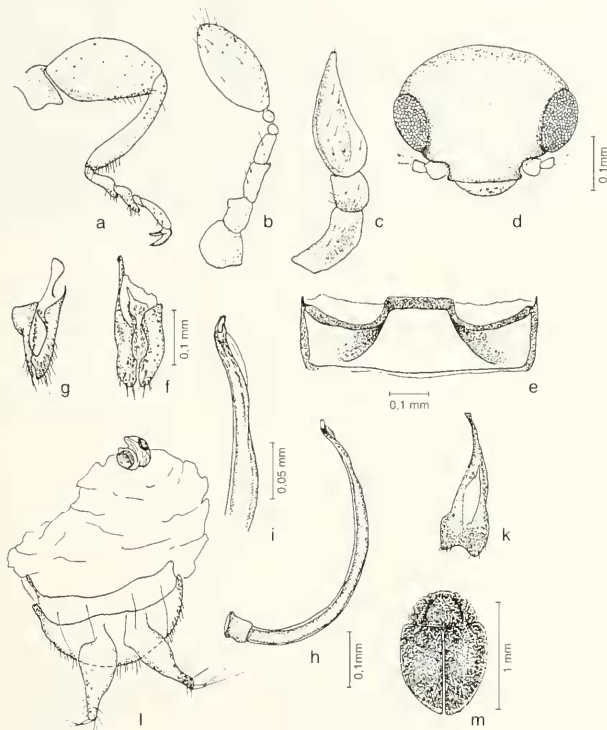


Fig. 1. *Diloponis* sp. n. Abbreviations: (a) leg; (b) antenna; (c) maxillary palpus; (d) head; (e) postcoxal line; (f) phallobase ventral view; (g) phallobase, lateral view; (h) siph; (i) apex of siph; (k) spicule; (l) female genitalia; (m) habitus.

sternum with incomplete postcoxal line (Fig. 1e). Male genitalia as in figure 1f-k; tegmen asymmetrical, with an apodeme at the base, at the apex with a few setae (Fig. 1f, g); siph curved at 1/3 length of base, siphonal capsule simple (Fig. 1h); tip of siph spoon-shaped with a membranous process (Fig. 1i); spicule as in Figure 1k. Female genitalia with elongated genital plate (Fig. 1l).

Etymology: We take great pleasure in naming this species in honour of Dr. Helmut FÜRSCHE in recognition of his contributions to coccinellids and for his guidance and encouragement.

Literatur

- FÜRSCH, H. 1985: Die afrikanischen Sukunahikonini und Microweiseini mit Diskussion über alle Gattungen. - Dtsch. ent. Z., N. F. 32, 279-295.
- POPE, R. D. 1962: A review of the Pharini (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae). - Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 13, 827-640.

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Aus der Münchner Entomologischen Gesellschaft

Programm für Januar bis Mai 1993

- Montag, 1. März **Ordentliche Mitgliederversammlung**
 Anträge zur Mitgliederversammlung müssen 14 Tage vorher beim Vorsitzenden eingereicht sein
- Freitag, 12. März/Samstag, 13. März
31. Bayerischer Entomologentag
 Zu dieser Veranstaltung wird gesondert eingeladen
 Poster können bis zum 8. Februar mit einer kurzen Inhaltsangabe (ca. ½ DIN-A4 Seite) bei der Münchner Entomologischen Gesellschaft
 Münchhausenstraße 21
 W-8000 München 60
 angemeldet werden
- Montag, 26. April **Vortrag:** E. W. ERHORN: Beziehungen zwischen Ökologie und Faunistik und der menschlichen Besiedlungsgeschichte in Bayern
- Montag, 24. Mai **Vortrag:** R. GERSTMEIER: Hinweis zum Abfassen wissenschaftlicher Manuskripte in der Entomologie
Vortrag: K. SCHÖNITZER und S. M. BLANK: Grundlagen und Probleme der zoologischen Nomenklatur

Zur Beachtung

Die Veranstaltungen finden in der Zoologischen Staatssammlung, Münchhausenstraße 21, 8000 München 60, Beginn jeweils 19 Uhr, statt.

Der Koleopterologische Arbeitskreis der Entomologischen Gesellschaft trifft sich 1993 am 11.1., 25.1., 8.2., 8.3., 22.3., 5.4., 19.4., 3.5., 17.5., 14.6., 28.6., 12.7., 26.7., 9.8., 23.8., 6.9., 20.9., 4.10., 18.10., 15.11., 29.11. und 23.12. (Weihnachtsverlosung).

Das **Österreichische Entomologische Kolloquium** findet in Salzburg im Institut für Zoologie am Samstag, 20.3.1993 statt. Auskunft erteilt Prof. Dr. K. POHLHAMMER, Institut für Zoologie, Heilbrunnerstraße 34, A-5020 Salzburg.

Vorankündigung: Das Internationale Symposium für Entomofaunistik in Mitteleuropa (SIGFC) findet vom **4.-9. Sept. 1994** in München statt. Auskunft erteilt: Dr. R. GERSTMEIER, TUM, Angewandte Zoologie, W-8050 Freising 12, FRG.